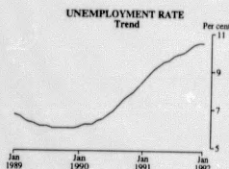
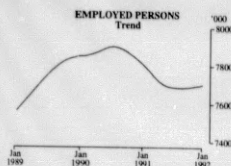


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 20 February 1992

The week in statistics ...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment strengthens again | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail trade falters | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange rate lifts import prices | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1991 Census — first figures released | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural Australia illustrated | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All the week's releases | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar of key releases up to 3 March | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The latest ... | |
| — key State indicators | 7 |
| — key national indicators | 8 |



Employment strengthens again

Seasonally adjusted employment rose in January 1992 due to strong rises in male part-time employment and female full-time and part-time employment. These rises were accompanied by falls in the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons for January 1992 was 7,736,300, an increase of 46,900 since December 1991. Full-time employment rose by 14,900 to 5,975,700, with full-time employment for females increasing by 16,700. There was a slight fall in the number of males employed full time. Part-time employment rose by 32,000 to 1,760,600, with part-time employment for males and females increasing by 13,000 and 19,000 respectively. Trend estimates of employment have now increased for the fourth successive month.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for January 1992 was 886,100, a fall of 24,200 since December 1991. Male unemployment fell by 14,400 to 532,800 mainly due to a fall of 13,700 in the number of adult males seeking full-time work. For females, unemployment fell by 9,700 to 353,400, with falls of 6,200 in the number seeking full-time work and 3,600 in the number seeking part-time work.

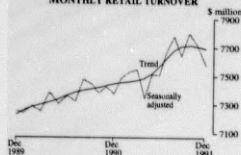
The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for January 1992 was 10.3 per cent, compared with 10.6 per cent in December 1991. The unemployment rate for males fell by 0.3 percentage points to 10.6 per cent, while the rate for females also fell by 0.3 percentage points to 9.8 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate continues to increase.

The labour force participation rate (seasonally adjusted) for January 1992 was 63.4 per cent compared with 63.3 per cent in December 1991. The male participation rate fell slightly to 74.6 per cent, while the female participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 52.4 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Participa- tion rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1991 —						
September	5,976.4	1,728.8	7,705.2	872.1	10.2	63.4
October	5,998.9	1,687.4	7,686.4	859.9	10.1	63.0
November	5,908.5	1,741.6	7,650.1	900.7	10.5	63.0
December	5,960.8	1,728.5	7,689.4	910.3	10.6	63.3
1992 —						
January	5,975.7	1,760.6	7,736.3	886.1	10.3	63.4

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail trade falters

A seasonally adjusted fall of 1.8 per cent in December 1991 retail turnover has resulted in the trend estimates showing an average decline of 0.1 per cent over the three months to December. Thus the current trend estimates might be levelling out after the short recovery observed in mid 1991.

The annual growth rate (December 1991 over December 1990) is 3.3 per cent, which represents an average monthly increase of 0.3 per cent.

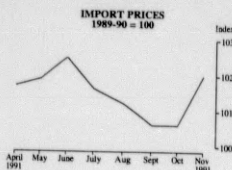
Apart from 'other' food stores (excluding butchers), which are showing strong growth, the other major retail industries are showing either weak growth or are in decline. Growth in the trend estimates for clothing and fabric stores and department stores is weak, grocers are showing no growth while hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs remain in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in December 1991 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended December 1991	12 months ended December 1991
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,491	0.0	0.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	1183	-0.9	-0.5
Department and general stores	1589	0.2	0.4
Clothing and fabrics stores	815	0.3	0.2
Other food stores (excluding butchers)	614	1.3	0.8
Electrical stores	584	-0.4	-0.5
Pharmacies	401	-1.9	0.6
Newsagents	336	0.4	0.7
Other industries	2,057	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	10,071	-0.1	0.3

A comparison of movements in the seasonally adjusted series for the last four months of 1990 with the last four months of 1991 show that in both periods falls were recorded in three of the four months. The difference between the two is that in 1990 the overall fall was the result of declining trends in a number of industries whereas in 1991 it was mainly influenced by the decline in the largest industry, grocers.

The value of turnover for retail and selected service industries in constant price seasonally adjusted terms fell by 0.6 per cent in the December quarter from September quarter 1991. In the past year (December quarter 1991 over December quarter 1990) turnover increased by 1.1 per cent.



Exchange rate lifts import prices

The Import Price Index increased by 1.4 per cent in November 1991. The value of the Australian dollar fell against the major trading currencies in November, making a significant contribution to the overall increase in the index.

Almost half of the increase was attributable to price increases for machinery and transport equipment, caused mainly by exchange rate variations. The next most significant contribution to the increase was higher prices for petroleum and petroleum products.

IMPORT PRICES, NOVEMBER 1991

Selected items	Percentage change from previous month
Animal and vegetable oils	4.0
Mineral fuels	3.1
Machinery and transport equipment	1.5
Miscellaneous manufactured goods	1.4
Other commodities and transactions	1.4
Chemicals	1.1
All items	1.4

For further information, order the publication Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

1991 Census — first figures released

Preliminary data from the 1991 Census (6 August 1991) is now available for South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. The highlights include:

□ South Australia

- The total number of people counted in South Australia was 1,400,655. This figure represents a 4.1 per cent increase in the census count for the State since the 1986 Census.
- The total number of dwellings has increased by 8.5 per cent since the 1986 Census, from 526,162 to 570,812 in 1991.

Source: First Counts for Statistical Local Areas: South Australia (2701.4).

□ Tasmania

- The total number of people counted in Tasmania was 452,847. This figure represents a 3.8 per cent increase in the census count for Tasmania since the 1986 Census.
- The sex ratio of the Tasmanian population in 1991 was 97.7 males to 100 females, compared with 98.5 males to 100 females in 1986.

Source: First Counts for Statistical Local Areas: Tasmania (2701.6).

□ Australian Capital Territory

- The total number of people counted was 280,085. This figure represents a 12.3 per cent increase in the census count since 1986.
- The total number of dwellings has increased by 15.7 per cent since the 1986 Census, from 85,319 to 98,737 in 1991.

Source: First Counts for Statistical Local Areas: Australian Capital Territory (2701.8).

Preliminary data for the other States and the Northern Territory will be issued progressively over the next three months.

Multicultural Australia illustrated

A new Australian Bureau of Statistics publication, *Multicultural Australia (2505.0)*, provides a comprehensive view of Australia's multicultural society in 100 pages of detailed information, illustrated with many useful graphs and summary tables.

The publication has eight chapters covering cultural diversity, ancestry, location, language, religion, family life, education and working life and income.

It is based on the 1986 Census of Population and Housing, which revealed that one in five Australians had been born overseas, a higher proportion than that recorded by any census since the turn of the century. Two in five Australians had at least one overseas-born parent.

The 1986 Census was unique in that it included a question on ancestry. The responses to this question helped to identify the cultural origins of Australia's people, especially those who had been born in Australia of Australian-born parents — about 60 per cent of the population.

As a result, the new publication includes some fascinating information on the patterns of migrant settlement throughout Australia's history. The following table, for example, indicates the highest regional concentrations of residents reporting particular ancestries.

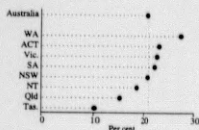
REGIONS WITH HIGHEST PROPORTIONS OF SELECTED ANCESTRIES, 1986

Ancestry	Region	State	Percentage of	
			Regional population	National population
Aboriginal	Bathurst and Melville Islands	NT	90.6	1.0
Australian	Spalding District Council	SA	32.5	18.6
Chinese	Acton	ACT	13.1	1.1
Dutch	Healesville Shire	Vic.	5.1	1.0
English	Bothwell Municipality	Tas.	62.7	35.6
German	Tanunda District Council	SA	33.0	1.5
Greek	Thebarton Municipality	SA	21.6	1.9
Irish	Bungaree Shire	Vic.	19.4	2.4
Italian	Hinchinbrook Shire	Qld	24.8	3.3
Lebanese	Canterbury Municipality	NSW	9.7	0.5
Maltese	Sunshine (City)	Vic.	11.3	0.6
Polish	Darra	Qld	6.1	0.6
Scottish	Whyalla (City)	SA	5.6	2.2
Yugoslavian	Cooper Pedy District Council	SA	5.6	0.7

The data derived from the ancestry question showed clearly the strong Anglo-Celtic origins of the Australian population. Half of the people who answered the question gave a single or mixed Anglo-Celtic response. English was most frequently reported, with 5.6 million people (more than one-third of the population) reporting sole ancestry to England. Only 13 per cent of these people had been born in England, and it was among second or later generation Australians that this ancestry response proved most common; 41 per cent of them gave English as their ancestry.

For further information, order the publication *Multicultural Australia (2505.0)*, or contact Dot Russell on (06) 252 6214.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
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- electronically.

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Qld (07) 222 6351
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SA (08) 237 7100
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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
20 February 1992

All the week's releases: 12 to 18 February

General

- Publications Advice, 14 February 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 18 February 1992 (1105.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 13 February 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, Vic., January 1992 (1307.2; \$6.50)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, February 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

Census of Population and Housing

- Census 1991 — First Counts for Statistical Local Areas, SA,
(2701.4; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Social statistics

- Schools, Aust., 1991, Preliminary (4220.0; \$10.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Occasional Paper: Productivity, Prices, Profits and Pay, 1964–65 to
1989–90 (5239.0; free) — *new issue*
Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, December 1991 (5433.0; \$9.50)
Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, Detailed Commodity Tables,
1990–91 (5437.0; \$90.00) includes microfiche (*Previously: Foreign
Trade, Aust.: Imports*)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., January 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Aust., September 1991 (6220.0; \$12.50)
Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., June Qtr 1991 (6248.0; \$16.00)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk,
January 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., December 1991 (6312.0; \$11.00)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., January 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)
Import Price Index, Aust., November 1991 (6414.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., December 1991
(6415.0; \$10.50)
1990 Survey of Income and Housing Costs and Ammenities, Persons
With Earned Income, Aust., (6546.0; \$35.00) (*Previously: Income
Distribution Survey, Persons with Earned Income*)

Agriculture

- Crops and Pastures, SA, 1991 (7321.4; \$19.00)
Fruit, SA, 1990–91 (7322.4; \$14.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, December 1991
(8363.0; \$6.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, December 1991
(8368.0; \$6.00)
Retail Trade, Aust., December 1991 (8501.0; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, Qld, December 1991 (8731.3; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, Tas., December 1991 (8731.6; \$9.50)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, December 1991 (9303.3; \$10.50)
Journey to Work, School and Shop, Adelaide Statistical Division,
October 1991 (9201.4; \$10.00) — *new issue*
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., December 1991 (9303.6; \$5.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 3 March 1992

February

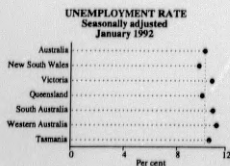
- 21** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1992, December Quarter 1991 Survey, Preliminary (\$625.0; \$10.50)
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, December 1991 (\$609.0; \$10.50)
Export Price Index, Australia, December 1991 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 25** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, December 1991 (6412.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, January 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, December 1991 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, December 1991 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- 27** Company Profits, Australia, December Quarter 1991 (\$651.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, December 1991 (6407.0; \$10.50)

March

- 3** Balance of Payments, Australia, January 1992 (\$301.0; \$16.00)
International Investment Position, Australia, December Quarter 1991 (\$306.0; \$21.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
18 February 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 91)*	-11.4	-19.5	-15.7	1.3	-11.6	-24.0	n.a.	n.a.	-14.1
Retail turnover (Dec. 91) (trend estimate)	3.2	2.6	5.0	0.3	6.1	1.0	n.a.	11.5	3.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Dec. 91)† (a)	-17.9	9.6	1.8	-13.9	14.4	11.2	34.2	16.0	-3.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Dec. 91)	24.6	21.7	44.9	-9.6	28.7	18.7	105.9	63.1	27.0
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Jan. 92)*	-1.4	-2.6	1.7	-2.9	-1.2	-3.0	3.3	-0.6	-1.1
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
(a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

The latest ...

Key national indicators – consolidated to 18 February 1992

8

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0	0.1
	— 1984-85 prices			62,900	63,396	-0.3	-1.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	-0.4	-15.3
	— 1984-85 prices			4,817	5,012	0.5	-13.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Dec. 91	10,071	7,579	-1.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	17,342	15,377	-0.6	1.1
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		no.	Dec. 91	41,839	41,702	-0.9	-3.6
Dwelling unit approvals			Dec. 91	10,716	12,177	7.1	21.8
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,622	1,764	12.3	13.3
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"		3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6	-0.3
	— 1984-85 prices	"		25,305	24,860	2.8	-0.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.	-5.0
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Jan. 91	7,570.9	7,736.3	0.6	-1.1
Unemployment rate †		%	"	11.2	10.3	-0.3	1.9
Participation rate †		%	"	62.7	63.4	0.1	-0.4
Job vacancies		'000	Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	2.8	-27.0
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.14	1.06	-9.7	-15.1
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	217.7	n.a.	0.9	1.5	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Nov. 91	120.6	n.a.	1.6	-9.8	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Nov. 91	111.5	n.a.	0.3	-1.8	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 91	567.70	n.a.	1.2	4.9	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	-0.85	-4.10	
10-year Treasury bonds †			9.80	n.a.	-0.50	-3.55	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Dec. 91	4,616	4,498	-1.3	6.0	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,784	3,860	-15.8	-9.0	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	832	638	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	804	475	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-413	-767	54.8	58.2	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	-0.7	-4.6	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 91	135,020	n.a.	1.2	3.6	
Net foreign liabilities	"		184,045	n.a.	2.6	7.1	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per SA	Dec. 91	0.7723	n.a.	-1.8	0.3	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		57.4	n.a.	-2.7	1.2	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Nov. 91	224	199	-7.4	12.5	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) December 1991 is not strictly comparable with December 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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